

HANS SCHMIDT PAYS DEATH PENALTY

GIRL SLAYER
PAYS FOR ACT
IN THE CHAIR

Murderer Delivers a Farewell Talk Before His Prison Execution.

KILLED ANNA AUMULLER

Growsome Butchery of His Sweetheart Is Atoned With Own Life.

Ossining, N. Y., Feb. 18.—Hans Schmidt was electrocuted at Sing Sing prison today for the murder of Anna Aumuller Sept. 2, 1913.

Schmidt went quietly to the death chamber, accompanied by the principal keeper and the Rev. Father Cashin, the prison chaplain. Leaving the death house, he said good-bye to those who remained. When he entered the chamber, the guards attempted to direct him toward the chair but Schmidt gently shook them off and insisted on addressing the 17 witnesses. The guards desisted from their efforts, and with Father Cashin standing at one side and the keeper at the other, Schmidt said:

Asks Forgiveness.

"Gentlemen, I ask forgiveness of all those I have injured or scandalized. I forgive all those who have injured me. My last wish is to say good-bye to my dear old mother."

Schmidt then seated himself in the electric chair and the current was applied three times. Within a minute he was dead. He had spent the night up to midnight in praying and talking with Father Cashin, and slept from midnight to 5 o'clock, when he was awakened for breakfast. He would take only a cup of coffee.

Body Washed Up on Shore.

New York, Feb. 18.—When the torso of Anna Aumuller's body was washed up on the New Jersey shore of the Hudson river there started a search which has had but few parallels in the annals of New York crime. There was but one faint clue, a pillowslip on which was embrodered the letter "A," but it was just such a pillow slip as might be found in hundreds of homes or stores. There was not even a laundry mark to aid the police. With this slender clue, Inspector Faurot took personal charge of the case, and on Sept. 14, 1913, 12 days after the murder, Hans Schmidt, an assistant priest at an uptown church, was arrested, charged with the crime. An hour before the arrest the inspector had broken into a flat and found a long bladed butcher's knife and other evidence that the murder had been committed there. Schmidt confessed, and his sole defense was that it was a "blood sacrifice murder." The body had been dismembered and presumably all of it was thrown into the river, although the head was never found. Schmidt was twice placed on trial, the first jury, in December, 1913, failing to reach a verdict. In February, 1914, he was found guilty.

Had Career of Crime.

Besides the sordid story of Anna Aumuller's infatuation for Schmidt, the trials revealed that he was a career of crime. He was engaged in a counterfeiting scheme at the time the murder was committed, and "Dr. A. Muret, who posed as a dentist, was sent to the penitentiary for seven years as Schmidt's accomplice in the latter's scheme. It was found that Schmidt also had posed as a physician, that he had committed numerous forgeries and had been guilty of other frauds. His attorneys pleaded their client was insane. The slayer, however, always contended that he was sane. He took to active part in his own defense. When he was sentenced he thanked the court and expressed a desire to be executed at once. He maintained the same stolid composure through all the various stages of his case.

ACCUSED DIRECTORS
OFFER SETTLEMENT

New York, Feb. 18.—Daniel G. Reid, William H. Moore and other directors of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad have offered to pay \$750,000 in settlement of their possible liability to the railroad company. Walter C. Noyes, receiver for the company, having approved this offer of settlement, recommended to the United States district court yesterday that the court also ratify it and release the men named from further monetary responsibility growing out of the loss sustained by the railroad through the purchase and sale of the Frisco road and the issuance of certain dividends which are said to have been unauthorized.

THE WAR
TODAY

Artillery exchanges are in progress on the western, Russian and Austro-Italian fronts, but from none of these fronts has a report come of a notable change in the position of any of the belligerents.

Much speculation regarding the probable future course of the events in the campaign about Erzerum is being indulged in, but there is little positive information regarding the numbers and positions of the opposing forces. One report says the Russians have pushed a force northwest from Erzerum and that this body of troops already has reached Balbrat, 75 miles away on the road to Trebizond, the important Turkish port on the Black sea.

Reports of a mutiny of Hindu troops in Egypt come today through German channels. A circumstantial account published in a Cologne newspaper declared that an entire regiment mutinied after an Australian officer had shot two Mohammedan servants who had made some mistake. Twelve British officers, including the commander of the regiment and a major, were killed, according to the account, and it was only after two hours of fighting by Australian regiments that the mutiny was suppressed.

TWO ARRESTED IN
NEW TEUTON PLOT

Investigation to Be Turned Over to Department of Justice—Dynamite Plans Balked.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 18.—Investigation of the alleged plot to dynamite the plant of the American Car & Foundry company here will be turned over to the agents of the department of justice. It is understood the prosecuting attorney has obtained important evidence in connection with the arrest of two young men formerly employed by the company—Otto Bartholma, 21, and Ernest McCord, 23. Bartholma, it is claimed, has been corresponding with a consul of a nation involved in the war. His dealings with a person in St. Louis also are being investigated. Detectives who have been working on the foundry plot case said today that their general investigation now extends into Canada. An attempt to blow up a munitions factory at Windsor, Ontario, across the river from Detroit, was blocked by the discovery of dynamite which had been placed against the building, it was said.

WATERS FLOOD TOWN
AS DAM GIVES WAY

Amsterdam, Feb. 18.—Flood havoc continues at various places in northern Holland. Last night the emergency dam at Purmerend, 10 miles north of Amsterdam, burst and the water rushed into the town.

The water on the flooded lands near Edam is very high. The houses outside Edam have been evacuated. Great anxiety is felt at Volendam. An increased number of houses are in danger of collapse.

Latest Bulletins

London, Feb. 18. (12:45 p. m.)—New notes of credit amounting to approximately £400,000,000, will be asked by Premier Asquith of the house of commons on Monday. The new notes will bring up the total of war appropriations to £2,062,000,000.

Paris, Feb. 18.—The Paris Journal's correspondent at Tanarivo says that German agents finance and otherwise encourage a native plot to overthrow the government of Madagascar on Dec. 31 last.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The impression grew in official circles today that Secretary Houston today was transferred to the war department to succeed former Secretary Garrison. Mr. Houston refused to discuss the subject.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Representative Buchanan of Illinois, addressing the house today, made a general denial of all the charges in an indictment returned against him recently by a New York federal grand jury in connection with his activities as president of Labor's National Peace council.

Natchez, Miss., Feb. 18.—Partial relief for the situation at Newellton, La., where 2,500 persons, mostly negroes, had been marooned by the flood for 18 hours or more, was reported here today.

LODGE BACKS
POLICY USED
AS A NEUTRAL

Senator Urges Administration to Keep to Course Being Pursued.

DANGER IN ANY CHANGE

Sees Trouble in Any Alteration of United States' Present Stand.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Senator Lodge, ranking minority member of the foreign relations committee, made a speech in the senate today declaring that abandonment by the United States at this time of the principle that its ports were open to and its citizens free to travel upon merchantmen of belligerent nations armed solely for defensive purposes, would be an unneutral act and a step toward war. He said it would make the United States the ally of the belligerent whose merchant marine had been swept from the seas.

Forsees Trouble in Policy Change.

The senator spoke at length, dwelling on the history of international law relating to the arming of merchantmen for defense and citing precedents in the record of the United States. He referred to reports that the administration was preparing to change its policy, which have been denied by Secretary Lansing since the issuance of the German and Austrian memorandums announcing their intention to treat armed merchant ships as war vessels after Feb. 29. As late as the president's note of May 13, 1915, signed by Mr. Bryan, Senator Lodge said, this government recognized that "American citizens were within their undisputed rights in taking their ships and in traveling wherever their legitimate business calls them on the high seas."

"The abandonment of those rights by any neutral government on the ground that the invention of submarines with the necessary limitations on the powers of capture possessed by those boats is inconceivable. Such abandonment could only rest on the ground that the rights of neutrals, the rules which for centuries have been agreed upon by all nations for the protection of innocent lives on vessels captured in war, must be thrown aside and discarded in order that a new instrument of maritime destruction must not be impeded in its work of death and murder.

Two Sides to Matter.

"There is, however, another side to this matter which is of even greater importance. There can be no question that any act by a neutral which alters conditions created by the war is an unneutral act and places the neutral on the side of one belligerent or the other.

"This is eminently true of any form of embargo, and there is no need that I should repeat the unanswerable argument on this point embodied by Mr. Lansing in his note of last August to the government of Austria-Hungary. The war and the war alone has also created conditions under which any change at this time in the attitude which we took officially at the outset of the war in regard to armed merchantmen would be an unneutral act. "I cannot believe that the administration thinks for a moment of altering the well defined position which it took at the outset of the European war and I believe that it must stand as

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RAT IS USED TO SOLVE
CANTON WIRE RIDDLE

Canton, Ill., Feb. 18.—Success crowned the week old efforts of two local rural telephone company managers yesterday when they established physical connection between their exchanges here, in compliance with an order of the public utilities commission.

It was necessary to run the line through a conduit 434 feet long, but of narrow diameter. A week ago a rat with a silk fishline to his tail was started through the small passage. A ferret sent after him to hurry him up was too ambitious and caught the rat. The entire collection of rats gathered through the medium of a newspaper want ad were sent through the conduit, but the managers were never able to judge properly the ferret's handicap. Yesterday a local inventive genius suggested tying a bell on a rat. This was done. The fish line was dragged through by the rat and then in turn a fine copper wire was drawn through hand-over-hand. The rat neglected to stop and as a reward for faithful service he was permitted to escape.

RUSSIAN TROOPS
ARE PRAISED AT
FALL OF ERZERUM

Petrograd, Feb. 18. (via London, 2:20 p. m.)—The fall of Erzerum, the most important Turkish stronghold in Asia Minor, and for a long time considered impregnable, offers the unprecedented spectacle of a first class fortress built on a steep mountain ridge nearly a mile above sea level yielding to bayonet attack after only 35 hours bombardment.

The operations were conducted under the most severe weather conditions, the snow being deep and the thermometer registering at times more than 30 degrees below zero. "The Turkish army defending Erzerum, taken by surprise under the methods, adopted by the Russians, is now said to be in disorderly flight on the roads leading to Sivas. As the garrison apparently scattered in all directions, it is assumed here that large numbers of men were taken prisoner, although official figures are still lacking.

After the taking of Niskala, it appeared that the Russian attack would be directed on the Turkish right flank, and by rapidly transferring troops, the Turks made all plans to resist the main assault from this quarter. Apparently they had little fear of the success of this attack because of the strong character of the fortifications in that direction and even less apprehension of danger from a frontal attack.

Nevertheless, after the Russians took by storm the first line forts Feb. 2, there began a persistent bombardment of the Turkish center, followed by a bayonet charge, which swept the defenders off their feet. The highest tribute is paid to the bravery of the Caucasian troops, whose charge is considered one of the most brilliant feats of the war.

It is recognized here that the success of the assault was due almost entirely to the bayonet work of these troops, since the artillery preparation was insufficient in intensity and duration, according to military experts, to reduce even a strong field position.

The wiping out of this Turkish base tends to disrupt the whole Caucasian campaign of the Turks, as it not only served as a base of operations in the Caucasus, but also of those in Mesopotamia. Its fall leaves no strongly fortified point between Erzerum and Sivas, about 230 miles to the west, and brings more to the front consideration of an eventual attack on Constantinople from the east.

An attempt to retake Erzerum is anticipated, but there are enormous difficulties attending the bringing up of Turkish reinforcements, as it is assumed that Turkish forces in Mesopotamia cannot be spared. The alternative for the Turks seems to be to draw on those at Constantinople from which all possible routes towards Erzerum are long and arduous. The most practicable is by railway to Urfa, whence it would be necessary to march overland more than 200 miles. The Black sea route to Trebizond has become impracticable because of the Russian domination of the Black sea littoral.

Charge That
Harvester Is
Behind War

Washington, Feb. 18.—Charges that the International Harvester company had furnished money for arms and ammunition for the Ortiz-Arquiedo revolution against the Carranza government in Yucatan, Mexico, were made today by Levy Mayer of Chicago in the senate agriculture committee's investigation into an alleged monopoly for control of the sisal market.

Walter L. Fisher, former secretary of the interior, counsel for the harvester company, displayed to the committee a bundle of bills, part of 3,500,000 pesos issued by the Yucatan commission, formed for controlling the sisal crop. He was undertaking to explain that the bills had come into the possession of the harvester company from a draft for \$450,000 gold issued to Angelino Montes, a sisal purchaser, who the Yucatan planters asserted represented solely the harvester company, when he was interrupted by Mayer, who declared they gave the draft to raise money for stirring up a revolution.

"That's just talk," retorted Mr. Fisher.

The Ortiz-Arquiedo government had control of Yucatan for a short time in 1915 and was overcome by the Carranza army.

Testimony given by H. L. Daniels, manager of the fibre department of the International Harvester company, in the government's anti-trust suit was read to show that the International in 1909, after having bought 220,000 bales of sisal at 4 to 4½ cents a pound, put the prices up to 6½ cents to prevent the Plymouth Cordage company, which it then was fighting, from making a profit that year.

Mr. Fisher declared the harvester company in spite of purchasing its sisal at a low figure, had not taken advantage of the increase in price to raise its price of twine to the dealer, its profit that year being an average of only 2½ per cent, the lowest of any year's twine business.

Army Officer Dead.

San Francisco, Feb. 18.—Captain Fred L. Perry, coast artillery corps, United States army, is dead at the presidio here today. Death followed a capital operation performed two days ago. Captain Perry was born in Iowa in 1875.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Vicinity.

Fair tonight and Saturday, rising temperature Saturday with the lowest tonight about 25 degrees. Temperature at 7 a. m. 30. Highest yesterday, 44; lowest last night, 30. Velocity of wind at 7 a. m., 14 miles per hour. Precipitation, none. Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 81; at 7 a. m., 63; at 1 p. m. today, 55. Stage of water, 10 feet; no change from yesterday. J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

SUBMARINE CASE
IS DISCUSSED AT
CABINET MEETING

Washington, Feb. 18.—The submarine situation with its new developments was discussed at today's cabinet meeting. Secretary Lansing went to the White House before the cabinet assembled and discussed the question with the president at some length. It was indicated today that Austria, too, will be notified of the assurances which the United States is asking for the future, so that the position of this government may be fully and uniformly known to the Germanic allies.

A long dispatch from Ambassador Bernstorff was on its way to Berlin today explaining that in its negotiations with Germany over submarine warfare the United States will accept nothing short of a complete agreement covering all points for which it has contended as to assurance that the warfare in the future will be conducted with the established principals of international law.

It is understood that the ambassador informed his government that the United States considers Germany's declaration of its intention to sink armed merchantmen without warning after Feb. 29, inconsistent with the assurances given in the Arabic case. It was said that he told the Berlin foreign office that Secretary Lansing has informed him that the United States desires the German declaration regarding armed merchant ships be modified and that the tentative communication designed to end the Lusitania case will not be formally accepted by this country until assurances regarding the future conduct of German submarine warfare is given.

In Teutonic diplomatic circles it was stated that the Berlin foreign office would not modify the declaration of intention to sink armed ships or inform this country that previous assurances were binding unless Great Britain should give assurances that a submarine which warns a British ship carrying defense armament would not be fired on.

DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE.

Senator Sterling spoke on his resolution pertaining to German admiralty's order to sink armed merchant ships of belligerents.

Senator Lodge in speech declared abandonment by United States of principle that its ports were open to and its citizens free to travel on armed belligerent merchantmen would be unneutral.

Considered Nicaraguan treaty in executive session.

International Harvester company was charged with furnishing arms to Mexican revolutionists at agriculture committee's sisal investigation hearing.

HOUSE.

Continued general debate on postoffice appropriation bill.

Captain McKean told naval committee the navy's war plans are kept well up to date and he saw no need of a general staff.

POISON COOK
JEERS AT LAW
IN OPEN NOTE

In Second Letter to New York Paper Crones Tells "Why He Did It."

POLICE SCOURING CITY

Burden of Chase Is Thrown on Sleuths of Eastern Metropolis.

Chicago, Feb. 18.—Following the publication this morning in New York newspapers of another letter believed to have been written by Jean Crones, former chef at the University Club of Chicago, local police officials put on the New York authorities the burden of responsibility for Crones' arrest. Crones is charged with putting poison in the soup served at the Mundelein banquet.

The federal government operatives here today continued to assist local authorities in tracing reports that the poisoning was the result of an anti-clerical plot of nation-wide proportions. It was learned today that secret service agents received warning of such a conspiracy more than three months ago. At that time it was reported that anarchistic leaders had been holding secret meetings at Salida, Colo., discussing plans for a "reign of terror" to be created throughout the United States by the destruction of churches and public buildings. It was reported that the new \$2,500,000 federal building at Denver, Colo., was among those slated for destruction. Letters from Salida, Colo., were found among Crones' belongings.

Officials of a correspondence school have identified the signature of Jean Crones on an application for their chemistry course as the same attached to the letters published in a New York paper, in which Crones confessed poisoning soup served at the Archbishop Mundelein banquet here last week. The identification removes all doubt, according to Captain Hunt, that Crones wrote the first New York letter and the captain believes he also wrote the second, published today.

Letters Mailed in New York.

New York, Feb. 18.—Believing that Jean Crones, the Chicago chef accused of poisoning the soup at a dinner of Catholic clergymen and laymen in that city, is in New York city or nearby, the police made every effort today to run him down. The authorities think Crones is the author of two letters mailed in this city to the New York Times, in which the writer boasts that he has escaped arrest and makes veiled threats.

The identification by John M. McCourt, assistant United States district attorney at Scranton, Pa., of the facsimile of the first Crones letter received here as the handwriting of the man wanted in Chicago stimulated police efforts here. Crones' writing was identified by examination papers he had sent to a correspondence school in Scranton.

The second letter, apparently signed by Crones, received by the New York paper last night, contained what purported to be his finger prints. The police are endeavoring to learn by these prints whether Crones had a record in the police bureau of identification.

Attacks Social Conditions.

In this letter the writer attempted to tell in an incoherent manner "why I did it." Many of the words are misspelled as was the case in the previous letter. The writer asserted that "while at Europe millions of Christians are slaughtering each other in the most bloody massacre, and in these free country thousands of men and women are tramping the streets without food and shelter at the

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PREPARE TO CARE FOR
FLOOD SUFFERERS

New Orleans, Feb. 18.—Preparations for taking care of hundreds of additional refugees, made homeless by the flood waters still pouring through Buck Ridge cravasse are being made at Natchez, Miss., and Vidalia, La. Rescue boats are expected at Natchez today.

Flood waters today were threatening several thousand head of cattle, mules and horses corralled on Sicily Island, near St. Joseph.

Many isolated small groups of refugees in the vicinity of Newellton have been concentrated at central points. Next to food, boats are said to be most needed in the flooded areas.

No new breaks in any of the levees were reported by the state and federal engineers.